IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-20, and add new claims 21-44 as follows:

1.-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A method of providing computer resource access rights to a process, comprising:

  providing a memory storing meta-data, the meta-data defining resource access rights of the process;

  receiving a request from the process to authenticate a user;

  authenticating the user responsive to the request from the process; and

  responsive to a positive authentication of the user, altering the meta-data in the memory to provide the process with resource access rights defined for the process.

22. (New) The method of claim 21,

  wherein the meta-data stored in the memory initially has a null value; and

  wherein altering the meta-data in the memory comprises:

    substituting the null value with an identification of the user.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein authenticating the user responsive to the request from the process comprises:

  providing the user with a first value;

  receiving a user identification and a second value from the process, the second value generated responsive to a password and the first value;

  generating the password from the first and second values; and

  authenticating the user responsive to the username and the password.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein authenticating the user responsive to the request from the process comprises:

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providing the user with a first value;

receiving a user identification and a second value from the process, the second value
generated responsive to the first value and a password provided by the user;

identifying a password associated with the received user identification;

generating a third value from the first value and the password associated with the
received user identification; and

positively authenticating the user if the generated third value matches the received
second value.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein generating the third value from the first
value and the password associated with the received user identification comprises:

applying a hash function to the first value and the password associated with the
received user identification.

26. (New) The method of claim 21,

wherein the memory stores a directory path; and

further comprising:

responsive to the positive authentication of the user, providing the process
with resource access rights to one or more resources located in a
directory within the directory path, the directory being designated by
the altered meta-data.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

storing data in the memory indicating that the process has made a request to
authenticate the user.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

responsive to receiving a user identification from the user, verifying that the data in
the memory indicates that the process has made a request to authenticate the
user.

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29.   (New) A system for providing computer resource access rights to a process, comprising:

       a memory for storing meta-data, the meta-data defining resource access rights of the process;

       an interface module for receiving a request from the process to authenticate a user;

       a validation module for authenticating the user responsive to the request from the process; and

       a security module for altering, responsive to a positive authentication of the user, the meta-data in the memory to provide the process with resource access rights defined for the process.

30.   (New) The system of claim 29,

       wherein the meta-data stored in the memory initially has a null value; and

       wherein the security module is adapted to substitute the null value with an identification of the user responsive to the positive authentication of the user.

31.   (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the validation module is adapted to:

       provide the user with a first value;

       receive a user identification and a second value from the process, the second value generated responsive to a password and the first value;

       generate the password from the first and second values; and

       authenticate the user responsive to the username and the password.

32.   (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the validation module is adapted to:

       provide the user with a first value;

       receive a user identification and a second value from the process, the second value generated responsive to the first value and a password provided by the user;

       identify a password associated with the received user identification;

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generate a third value from the first value and the password associated with the received user identification; and

positively authenticate the user if the generated third value matches the received second value.

33. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the validation module is adapted to generate the third value by:

applying a hash function to the first value and the password associated with the received user identification.

34. (New) The system of claim 29,

wherein the memory is adapted to store a directory path; and

wherein the security module is adapted to:

provide, responsive to the positive authentication of the user, the process with resource access rights to one or more resources located in a directory within the directory path, the directory being designated by the altered meta-data.

35. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the memory is adapted to:

store data indicating that the process has made a request to authenticate the user.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the validation module is adapted to:

verify, responsive to receiving a user identification from the user, that the data in the memory indicates that the process has made a request to authenticate the user.

37. (New) A computer program product having a computer-readable medium having embodied thereon program code for providing computer resource access rights to a process, the program code comprising:

a memory module for storing meta-data, the meta-data defining resource access rights of the process;

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an interface module for receiving a request from the process to authenticate a user;

a validation module for authenticating the user responsive to the request from the process; and

a security module for altering, responsive to a positive authentication of the user, the meta-data in the memory module to provide the process with resource access rights defined for the process.

38. (New) The computer program product of claim 37,

wherein the meta-data stored in the memory module initially has a null value; and

wherein the security module is adapted to substitute the null value with an identification of the user responsive to the positive authentication of the user.

39. (New) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the validation module is adapted to:

provide the user with a first value;

receive a user identification and a second value from the process, the second value generated responsive to a password and the first value;

generate the password from the first and second values; and

authenticate the user responsive to the username and the password.

40. (New) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the validation module is adapted to:

provide the user with a first value;

receive a user identification and a second value from the process, the second value generated responsive to the first value and a password provided by the user;

identify a password associated with the received user identification;

generate a third value from the first value and the password associated with the received user identification; and

positively authenticate the user if the generated third value matches the received second value.

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41.   (New) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the validation module is adapted to generate the third value by:

        applying a hash function to the first value and the password associated with the

                received user identification.

42.   (New) The computer program product of claim 37,

    wherein the memory module is adapted to store a directory path; and

    wherein the security module is adapted to:

        provide, responsive to the positive authentication of the user, the process with

                resource access rights to one or more resources located in a directory

                within the directory path, the directory being designated by the altered

                meta-data.

43.   (New) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the memory module is adapted to:

    store data indicating that the process has made a request to authenticate the user.

44.   (New) The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the validation module is adapted to:

    verify, responsive to receiving a user identification from the user, that the data in the

            memory module indicates that the process has made a request to authenticate

            the user.

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